(b) Peacock is included in Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and enjoys highest degree of protection under the provision of the Act. Under the Act peacocks cannot be kept as a pet bird.

(c) Recognized zoos may be considered for *ex-situ* breeding of the peacocks.

(d) Steps taken to encourage people to protect wildlife are as follows:

i. The Ministry has instituted Rajiv Gandhi Wildlife Conservation Award and Amrita Devi Bishnoi Wildlife Protection Award to encourage people to protect wildlife in the country.

ii. Wide publicity is given through media on the importance of wildlife conservation and provision of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

iii. Financial assistance is provided to mitigate man-animal conflict.

Tadoba-Andheri Tiger Reserve

3259. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tadoba-Andheri Tiger Reserve comprising Tadoba National Park and Andheri Sanctaury, notified during 1995, facing problems relating to resettlement of 6 villages in the Tiger Reserve area and 59 other villages situated on the periphery with a population of 61,644 humans and equal number of cattle;

(b) if so, whether the funds allocated by Government towards the implementation of this scheme, long back, have either not been utilized or partially utilized; and

(c) if so, who is responsible for this state of affairs and whether any monitoring organization exists which periodically takes stock of the implementation and setting time-bound implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Tadoba-Andheri Tiger Reserve comprises of Tadoba National Park and Andheri

Wildlife Sanctuary, established during 1955 and 1986 respectively. While no villages exist inside the National Park, there are six villages inside the Andheri Wildlife Sanctuary, with a human population of approximately 2000, apart from an equal number of cattle, which are under resettlement/ rehabilitation as informed by the State. Rehabilitation of 600 people from two villages have already been initiated, and an amount of Rs. 431.89 lakhs has been utilized against the release of Rs. 463 lakhs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger. Further, there are 56 villages within a radius of 5 kms from the boundary of the tiger reserve, with approximately 35,000 human and an equal number of cattle populations, for which there is no plan for resettlement, as informed by the State.

(c) Funding support under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger has been provided for relocation/rehabilitation of three villages from the area. However, action for relocation/rehabilitation could not be initiated in one of the villages due to refusal by villagers to move to the new site selected with their consent. As reported by State Government of Maharashtra has constituted District level and Division level Committees under the Chairmanship of District Collector and Commissioner respectively to monitor the implementation of rehabilitation/relocation activities in the area.

Afforestation

3260. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount spent by all the States on afforestation in last five years;

(b) the area covered by afforestation in last five years by all the States;

(c) the cumulative annual growth rate achieved for the covered area in afforestation during the last five years;

(d) the percentage increase of forest cover in the country during last five years, year-wise; and